

★ news release

The Commissioner has recently been given more responsibility in the Federal Government -- he is now not only the Commissioner for Fish and Wildlife, but also the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Knowing Mr. Pautzke as you do from his many years in Alaska and the State of Washington, I am sure you agree with me that there are few men who can equal his qualifications

for this important position. Because he has been Commissioner for several years and was only recently made my Deputy, it is the deputy job that he is "moon-lighting."

A few days ago we observed the 189th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. When that document was signed the United States had fewer than 4 million people. And those 4 million had many millions of acres of unexplored virgin forests, clear streams, clean air and abundant wildlife.

Today we are a nation of 194 million. We are strong and prosperous, but in certain areas we have lost some of our valuable natural resources capital as we have ravaged our forests, polluted our streams and poisoned our air, especially in the longer settled parts of the country.

In recent years, however, we have at least become more aware of these dangers, and have already taken important steps to prevent further damage, and to salvage some of the nation's beauty and natural wealth.

In my remarks today I would like to discuss some of the changes that have taken place, are taking place, and probably will take place in outdoor recreation.

I think you realize that most of our generation was born or reared on farms or in small communities, but this is not longer true for this generation because of the shift in population from rural to urban areas. And this is causing change in what these city dwellers do for recreation.

When a family moves from a rural to an urban area, it doesn't take long for youngsters to lose contact with the outdoors, insofar as fishing and hunting are concerned. Country children learn early about the out-of-doors from father, uncle, or older brother who introduces them to fishing and hunting. In the city the head of the house finds himself spending more and more hours working, or traveling to and from work, and parents and youngsters find many other forms of recreation. By the time a second generation is city-born the percentage enjoying wildlands recreation is certainly diminished.

One example of a newly exploding activity is skiing. Just think of the boom that has occurred! Skiers now don't even have to have natural snow. More and more slopes are being built, more chair lifts installed, and designers are even producing special wardrobes for the sport, some of which are too elegant for a Sitzmark but look fine in the lodge.

I use this example to point out the pitfalls of predicting exactly what the trends will be in outdoor recreation. I do not think anyone fully anticipated such growth. Consider the other form of skiing -- water skiing. Here is another sport which has grown tremendously ... so much so that now fishermen are complaining that in some waters, the skiers interfere with fishing. Already there have been suggestions as to how to cope with this problem. Certainly something will have to be done to bring about an amicable settlement. It could be that certain sections of water areas will be set aside for fishing and other areas for water skiing. There has also been a suggestion that fishing be permitted in some waters on alternate days with boating and water skiing, or during different hours of the day -- a sort of "time zoning." As these activities continue to grow, some provisions are being made to accommodate both groups so as to minimize the conflict between equally legitimate activities. Then, too, the swimming needs have to be met.

A point to consider here is that while the hunter and fisherman are certainly entitled to their share of land and water use, the funds from fees, licenses and taxes, are no longer the only source of revenue available to provide outdoor facilities. The new Land and Water Conservation Fund will be one source of money available to the States for additional facilities for all the people. This is the "Sticker" plan, with which I am sure you are familiar.

The first allocations to the States under the Land and Water Conservation Act were announced June 4, by Secretary Udall. Under this Act, States may request money on a matching basis for comprehensive outdoor recreation planning which can correct some of the negligence of the past and also provide more facilities for our growing population. Funds for outdoor recreation are now on a broader base than at any time in our history, and as the need for public land continues to grow, especially in heavily populated States, more and more States can be expected to take advantage of this Federal aid.

You have all heard the expression "quality experience" applied to hunting and fishing, and I feel we will hear it more often in the years ahead. As an example of this, I would like to pass along some information from my home State of Michigan. The Conservation Department reports that more than 45 thousand archery hunting licenses were sold for the 1964 season. This is a startling example of the increasing popularity of hunting with a bow and arrow, an experience many hunters feel offers them much more excitement and satisfaction than hunting with a rifle. These archers certainly were not all "meat" hunters -- only 2,800 of the 45 thousand killed deer, about a 6 percent success. But these archers feel they had a quality experience.

In New York State, where special archery licenses are also issued, nearly 14,000 were sold and 582 deer were taken, again showing that thousands of hunters were seeking the quality experience.

Similar results could be reported from many States which use the catch-and-release system in fishing, in some States called "fishing for fun." Excellent results are reported with this system, especially when a fisherman is allowed to keep any trophy fish he is able to take with his fly-casting outfit and barbless hooks.

Yes, there is much to be said from a conservation standpoint for the benefits of a quality experience in hunting and fishing. As the years go by we can expect more people, if not a larger percentage, to hunt and fish, and we can expect further losses of land and water for such recreation despite all efforts to the contrary. I believe all fish and game departments should stress more and more the quality experience rather than the full creel and the size of the bag.

The thousands who now visit our open spaces in search of various types of rocks, or for bird watching or hiking, or photography are enjoying healthful recreation and a quality experience. We must make ample provision for them as well as for the hunter and the fisherman.

Some recent data on membership in some of our private conservation agencies offer more clues to the increasing interest in conservation. The National Wildlife Federation now has a

contributor list of approximately 2 million. A few years ago it was fewer than a quarter million. The Wilderness Society is a much smaller group, but it shows the same remarkable growth. Ten years ago its membership was 7,000. Five years ago it was 11,000, and now it is 30,000. Although dues have more than doubled in this period, membership has almost tripled.

With more and more people seeking outdoor recreation, whether it be hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, skiing, rock hunting, or hiking, we must think in terms of land and water for all their uses. This is part of the planning by States and the Federal Government to acquire more public lands and water areas. There are two routes toward this goal. One is the public acquisition of land which I mentioned, and the other is the private route, permitting public or semi-public use of private land through payment to the owners, or by various cooperative arrangements. Landowners will no longer tolerate damage to their property because of a lack of understanding by city dwellers of rural values. There is no argument that the farmer or landowner does not own the game on his property . . . that belongs to the public, but the property owner does own the land on which the game lives, and he is entitled to post his property if he is faced with meeting the expense of damage to property, crops, and livestock caused by thoughtless sportsmen.

There are bright spots in the fish and wildlife and recreation picture that should not be overlooked. President Johnson himself served as the catalyst toward greater appreciation and conservation of our natural resources when he delivered to Congress not the traditional "message on conservation" but a Message on Natural Beauty. Since that time he and Mrs. Johnson have shown continued interest in this matter. Both participated in the recent White House Conference on Natural Beauty, and the President has directed Secretary Udall to coordinate a massive effort to clean up the Potomac River and plan its orderly use and development.

You may recall that the President called Mr. Udall "the Secretary of Conservation," and the Nation is indeed fortunate to have the deep interest of the President and the services of Secretary Udall in these times which call for decisive action if we are to preserve and restore our natural beauty. Congress has helped set the pace by creating more National Parks and Seashores, by passing the

Wilderness Act, the Multiple Use Act, and many other pieces of landmark legislation, not the least of which is the Land and Water Conservation Act.

You are aware, I am sure, of the increasing concern over the fate of the polar bear. Senator Bartlett has been tireless in his efforts to bring about a study of this magnificent animal, and I hope that within a short time you will hear of a scientific meeting to study all aspects of the polar bear. If this meeting takes place it will be a tribute to Senator Bartlett and Secretary Udall and to International Cooperation Year now being observed worldwide.

Work is also progressing by the Fish and Wildlife Service on publication of a scientifically accurate listing of all rare and endangered native species of wildlife in the United States, and plans are being made for expanded efforts in cooperation with the States to preserve such species that need special protection.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is pushing a program for the acquisition of wetlands to serve as nesting areas for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. In the near future many of you will be seeing and hearing announcements explaining the need for these wetlands and urging public cooperation this endeavor.

We fully expect the Job Corps and other Youth Opportunity Programs now underway to be of great benefit to all types of outdoor recreation. Many of the young men who are being trained to take full-time jobs in our growing economy will spend part of their time in our parks, forests, and refuges. Many will, I am sure, make an invaluable contribution to conservation, very much similar to that made by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the nineteen-thirties.

In many parts of our country, fishing and hunting, and the opportunities for other forms of outdoor recreation, are better than they have been in many years, and we in the Department of the Interior are determined to continue working, in cooperation with the 50 States, on our mutual problems.

There are other encouraging signs. Our colleges and universities are graduating more and more trained people to take their places in the struggle to conserve the beauty and the bounty of

natural America. These men and women understand the interrelationship of all resources, and this indeed is a good sign. They are learning, as John Muir once said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

Secretary Udall has remarked, "Who can say, once we set out to recreate primeval nature, what future generations might achieve in refreshing and restoring the face of North America?"

The first human to see America was undoubtedly a primitive nomad wandering east out of Asia during the last Ice Age, when much of Siberia and Alaska was ice-free. From Alaska he and his kind slowly spread to all parts of the land -- but they spread themselves thin, and Europeans, thousands of years later, found a continent still unspoiled. Even today some of that grandeur remains, and it is your job and mine to preserve for the youth of tomorrow a suitable heritage -- an endowment beyond the crowded cities ringed by vast ribbons of concrete highways and bypasses.

We cannot do less for future generations than assure that they will have their share of their rightful heritage of outdoor relaxation regardless of how they wish to seek it. Expressions like "Let's go fishing," or "Let's have a picnic," or "Let's go on a hike" were part of your childhood and mine. We must be sure that suggestions like these do not become obsolete because there are too few available places left.

We must expect changes in recreation in the future as we have experienced them in the recent past. As I said earlier, we did not anticipate the tremendous expansion of skiing and of bow-and-arrow hunting, or what high-powered motorboats would do to some of our water areas. I cannot tell you what to expect for the future, but new demands will certainly be made on land and water resources for types of recreation not now enjoyed by many. One lesson is clear. State and Federal agencies must remain flexible and willing to adjust to changing conditions.

I can illustrate the problem by reference to the Fish and Wildlife Service. It is no secret that it has been severely criticized from certain quarters because of its concentration of interest on commercial and sport fish and huntable game, especially migratory

waterfowl. It is not easy for the Service to adapt itself to a balanced interest in all life. Secretary Udall is urging upon us an ecological approach to our problems, and it is on that basis that we can approach a reasonable balance among the many recreational interests and the management of land and water habitats on an essentially natural basis. I am certain that State agencies face the same challenges and that at both spheres of government we must seek unity in variety.

One last point: It is inevitable that we will live with conflict. It is only human to wish that problems would go away. However, for the health of our agencies -- and ultimately for the best service to the public -- we should welcome conflict. As sociologist Saul Alinsky has said, "Evolution is accomplished by a series of small revolutions."

I am reminded of an anecdote: A freshman Senator introduced a bill to create a new national recreation area and found himself faced with a well-organized and financed group of tough in-fighters. When he regretted his difficulties, his wife reportedly said to him, "Nothing better could happen to a new public servant than to get into a hard fight for a good cause."

But one cause is not enough. Considering the close inter-relations among resources in nature, and the many different uses that can be made of any one natural resource or complex of them, conflicts among would-be resource users are inevitable. Welcome them. It is, in my opinion, better to have a whole series of causes than just one major one. What this means is that it is better for an agency to have a variety of enemies than to be monolithic, for it means a variety of friends, too.

I make this point with deep feeling because, as you will recall, Secretary Udall has accepted the report of the Leopold Committee on Predator Control as a basis for Departmental policy. Necessary control will be carried on, but it will not be indiscriminate and it will give due attention to maintenance of natural balanced environments, to the needs of rare and endangered species of all kinds, and to natural beauty in all of its manifestations. Having said that, it is quite clear that we are faced with an array of those who will cheer and those who will be appalled. Let us hope, however, that in the end the applause will prevail if our decision is just, which I think it is.

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